



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
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TERRY B. GRIER, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parent:

During the 2009–2010 school year, first-grade and second-grade students will be required to meet the Houston Independent School District's (HISD) promotion standards. Students must:

- Meet current state and local course-average requirements (a 70-percent course average in reading, language arts, math, and either science or social studies and a 70-percent average of all courses);
- Be within one year of his or her average grade level in reading on the Stanford 10/Aprena 3 (nationally norm-referenced achievement test); and
- Score at least 80 percent on the High-Frequency Word Evaluation (HFWE).

The HFWE assesses reading ability by having a child read and then say aloud words that are shown by the teacher. High-frequency words comprise approximately 50% of all written text. It is critical that students read these words quickly and effortlessly.

The HFWE will be administered in English or Spanish, depending on the language of reading instruction. The first administration of the HFWE will be November 9 through November 20, 2009. Those students meeting 80% passing on the first administration will have met the HFWE promotion standard for grades 1 and 2. Students who have not met the 80% passing requirement in November will be administered the second administration of the HFWE, March 29 through April 9, 2010. Students who do not meet the 80% passing requirement in April will not have met the HFWE promotion standard and will be required to attend summer school where they will be administered the third administration of HFWE.

Your child's school will be sending home a list of English or Spanish high-frequency words. Use the list to help your child practice and prepare for the High-Frequency Word Evaluation. As you listen to your child read daily, help him or her recognize the high-frequency words in books and in the daily environment.

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will develop in the early years of school. Consequently, HISD believes that students who do not meet the reading promotion standards need to receive extra help in summer school or the following year to help them become successful readers. Parent involvement at home promotes student success. Please work with your child and your child's school to make 2009–2010 a very rewarding and successful year. Thank you for partnering with us for your student's success.

Sincerely,

Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools